

3848

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 20, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to a demonstration program relating to the installation of roadside and bus mounted high occupancy vehicle and bus lane enforcement cameras on the Staten Island Expressway; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new  
2     section 223-a to read as follows:  
3     S 223-A. HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT CAMERA DEMON-  
4     STRATION PROGRAM. 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE  
5     COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO ESTABLISH A DEMON-  
6     STRATION PROGRAM, ON THE STATEN ISLAND EXPRESSWAY, IMPOSING MONETARY  
7     LIABILITY ON THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE FOR FAILURE, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF  
8     SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE ANTE MERIDIEM AND SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE POST MERI-  
9     DIEM, OF AN OPERATOR THEREOF TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE HIGH OCCUPANCY  
10    VEHICLE AND BUS LANE PRIORITY LAWS. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
11    FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROGRAM, SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO  
12    INSTALL AND OPERATE ROADSIDE AND BUS MOUNTED BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT  
13    CAMERAS ON NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED BUSES OR ROADSIDE LOCATIONS OPERATED  
14    BY THE DEPARTMENT.  
15    2. THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR A PENALTY IMPOSED PURSU-  
16    ANT TO THIS SECTION IF SUCH VEHICLE WAS USED OR OPERATED WITH THE  
17    PERMISSION OF THE OWNER, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR  
18    REGULATION RELATING TO USE OF A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE, AND  
19    SUCH VIOLATION IS EVIDENCED BY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A HIGH OCCUPAN-  
20    CY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT CAMERA; PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT NO  
21    OWNER OF A VEHICLE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR A PENALTY IMPOSED PURSUANT TO  
22    THIS SECTION WHERE THE OPERATOR OF SUCH VEHICLE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 THE UNDERLYING VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION ADOPTED BY THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OR THE COMMISSIONER.

3 3. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "OWNER" SHALL MEAN ANY PERSON, CORPO-  
4 RATION, PARTNERSHIP, FIRM, AGENCY, ASSOCIATION, LESSOR, OR ORGANIZATION  
5 WHO AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTICE OF VIOLATION IN WHICH A  
6 VEHICLE IS OPERATED:

7 (A) IS THE BENEFICIAL OR EQUITABLE OWNER OF SUCH VEHICLE; OR

8 (B) HAS TITLE TO SUCH VEHICLE; OR

9 (C) IS THE REGISTRANT OR CO-REGISTRANT OF SUCH VEHICLE WHICH IS REGIS-  
10 TERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF ANY  
11 OTHER STATE, TERRITORY, DISTRICT, PROVINCE, NATION OR OTHER JURISDIC-  
12 TION; OR

13 (D) USES SUCH VEHICLE IN ITS VEHICLE RENTING AND/OR LEASING BUSINESS;  
14 OR

15 (E) IS AN OWNER OF SUCH VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY SECTION ONE HUNDRED  
16 TWENTY-EIGHT OF THIS CHAPTER OR A DEALER OF SUCH VEHICLE AS DEFINED BY  
17 SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION TWENTY-ONE HUNDRED ONE OF THIS CHAPTER.

18 4. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE  
19 ENFORCEMENT CAMERA" SHALL MEAN A DEVICE INSTALLED ON A BUS OR A ROADSIDE  
20 LOCATION WHICH AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCES TWO OR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS, TWO OR  
21 MORE MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, A VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED IMAGES OF EACH  
22 VEHICLE AT THE TIME IT IS USED OR OPERATED IN VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR  
23 REGULATION RELATING TO USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES.

24 5. A CERTIFICATE, SWORN TO OR AFFIRMED BY A TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED BY THE  
25 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OR A FACSIMILE THEREOF, BASED UPON  
26 INSPECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS, MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED  
27 IMAGES PRODUCED BY A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT  
28 CAMERA, SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS CONTAINED THEREIN.  
29 ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED IMAGES  
30 EVIDENCING SUCH A VIOLATION SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN ANY  
31 PROCEEDING TO ADJUDICATE THE LIABILITY FOR SUCH VIOLATION IMPOSED PURSU-  
32 ANT TO THIS SECTION.

33 6. AN OWNER LIABLE FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION RELATING  
34 TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANES ADOPTED BY THE  
35 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OR THE COMMISSIONER SHALL BE LIABLE FOR  
36 MONETARY PENALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE OF FINES AND PENALTIES  
37 TO BE PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE LIABILITY OF THE OWNER  
38 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT EXCEED THE ESTABLISHED FINE FOR EACH  
39 VIOLATION; PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY NOT IN EXCESS OF  
40 TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS SHALL BE IMPOSED FOR EACH VIOLATION FOR THE FAILURE  
41 TO RESPOND TO A NOTICE OF LIABILITY WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD.

42 7. AN IMPOSITION OF LIABILITY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE DEEMED A  
43 CONVICTION AS AN OPERATOR AND SHALL NOT BE MADE PART OF THE OPERATING  
44 RECORD OF THE PERSON UPON WHOM SUCH LIABILITY IS IMPOSED NOR SHALL IT BE  
45 USED FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES IN THE PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE  
46 COVERAGE.

47 8. (A) A NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL BE SENT BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN  
48 FIFTEEN DAYS OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO EACH PERSON  
49 ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE AS AN OWNER FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGU-  
50 LATION RELATING TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES  
51 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. PERSONAL SERVICE ON THE OWNER SHALL NOT BE  
52 REQUIRED. A MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC RECORD OF MAILING PREPARED IN THE ORDI-  
53 NARY COURSE OF BUSINESS SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS  
54 CONTAINED THEREIN.

55 (B) A NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL CONTAIN THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE  
56 PERSON ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE AS AN OWNER FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR

REGULATION RELATING TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE VEHICLE INVOLVED IN SUCH VIOLATION, THE LOCATION WHERE SUCH VIOLATION TOOK PLACE, THE DATE AND TIME OF SUCH VIOLATION AND THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OF THE CAMERA WHICH RECORDED THE VIOLATION OR OTHER DOCUMENT LOCATOR NUMBER.

(C) THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION ADVISING THE PERSON CHARGED OF THE MANNER AND THE TIME IN WHICH HE OR SHE MAY CONTEST THE LIABILITY ALLEGED IN THE NOTICE. SUCH NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL ALSO CONTAIN A WARNING TO ADVISE THE PERSONS CHARGED THAT FAILURE TO CONTEST IN THE MANNER AND TIME PROVIDED SHALL BE DEEMED AN ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND THAT A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED THEREON.

(D) THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL BE PREPARED AND MAILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR ITS DESIGNEE.

9. IF AN OWNER RECEIVES A NOTICE OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION FOR ANY TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS HAVING BEEN STOLEN, IT SHALL BE A VALID DEFENSE TO AN ALLEGATION OF LIABILITY FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION RELATING TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT THE VEHICLE HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE AS STOLEN PRIOR TO THE TIME THE VIOLATION OCCURRED AND HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED BY SUCH TIME. FOR PURPOSES OF ASSERTING THE DEFENSE PROVIDED BY THIS SUBDIVISION IT SHALL BE SUFFICIENT THAT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE POLICE REPORT ON THE STOLEN VEHICLE BE SENT BY FIRST CLASS MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OR ITS DESIGNEE.

10. IF THE OWNER LIABLE FOR A VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION RELATING TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION WAS NOT THE OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE OWNER MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST THE OPERATOR.

11. AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE TO WHICH A NOTICE OF LIABILITY WAS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE IF THE MOTORIST DRIVING OR STOPPING IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND BUS LANE WHILE:

(A) YIELDING RIGHT OF WAY TO AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE WITH ACTIVATED WARNING LIGHTS OR SIREN,

(B) AT THE DIRECTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR EMERGENCY SERVICE OFFICIALS OR OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO STOP OR DIRECT TRAFFIC, OR

(C) WHEN AVOIDING ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS OR CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER HAZARDS.

12. AN APPEAL OF AN ADJUDICATION OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS IN SUCH CITY.

13. (A) AN OWNER WHO IS A LESSOR OF A VEHICLE TO WHICH A NOTICE OF LIABILITY WAS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION RELATING TO THE USE OF HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLES AND BUS LANES:

(I) IF PRIOR TO THE VIOLATION THE LESSOR HAS FILED WITH THE BUREAU AND PAID THE REQUIRED FILING FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF THIS TITLE; AND

(II) WITHIN THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE OF THE DATE AND TIME OF A LIABILITY, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL NOTICE OF LIABILITY, THE LESSOR SUBMITS TO THE BUREAU THE CORRECT NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY AT THE TIME OF SUCH VIOLATION, TOGETHER WITH SUCH OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE RENTAL LEASE OR OTHER

1 CONTRACT DOCUMENT, AS MAY BE REASONABLY REQUIRED BY THE BUREAU PURSUANT  
2 TO REGULATIONS THAT MAY BE PROMULGATED FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

3 (B) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL  
4 RENDER THE OWNER LIABLE FOR THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

5 (C) WHERE THE LESSOR COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION,  
6 THE LESSEE OF SUCH VEHICLE ON THE DATE OF SUCH VIOLATION SHALL BE DEEMED  
7 TO BE THE OWNER OF SUCH VEHICLE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SHALL BE  
8 SUBJECT TO LIABILITY FOR SUCH VIOLATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND  
9 SHALL BE SENT A NOTICE OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF  
10 THIS SECTION.

11 14. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY  
12 OF AN OPERATOR OF A VEHICLE FOR ANY VIOLATION OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION  
13 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

14 15. ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN AND  
15 DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
16 SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION  
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE  
18 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY ON THE RESULTS OF SAID DEMON-  
19 STRATION PROGRAM. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

20 (A) A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCATIONS WHERE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE AND  
21 BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS WERE USED;

22 (B) THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS RECORDED IN THE AGGREGATE ON A DAILY,  
23 WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BASIS;

24 (C) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES OF LIABILITY ISSUED;

25 (D) THE NUMBER OF FINES AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES PAID AFTER FIRST  
26 NOTICE OF LIABILITY;

27 (E) THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS ADJUDICATED AND RESULTS OF SUCH ADJUDI-  
28 CATIONS INCLUDING BREAKDOWNS OF DISPOSITIONS MADE;

29 (F) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF REVENUE REALIZED; AND

30 (G) THE QUALITY OF THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS AND ITS RESULTS.

31 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
32 it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed three  
33 years after such effective date; provided that any rules or regulations  
34 necessary for the timely implementation of this act are authorized to be  
35 made on or before such effective date.